

Submitter: Howard Snyder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

Dear Joint Subcommittee on Education,

It pains me to think about the state of education in Oregon, and in Portland in particular. I have two children (3rd and 5th grade) in the Mandarin Immersion Program at Woodstock Elementary School in Southeast Portland. We, in fact, moved to Portland so that we could benefit from this flagship program. When my oldest child started school in 2018, there were almost 550 students at the school; the forecast for next year is about 350, a drop of 200 students in 7 years! Our principal just gave us the budget numbers for 2026. Our school is going from 31 full time teachers to 24, and my son's 4th grade class is forecasted to have 34 kids in it next year.

Oregon is setting kids up for failure. As you know better than I, the test scores were the state were among the worst in the nation, way down there with Mississippi and Louisiana. Before I moved here, I thought of Oregon as a progressive and educated state, but am sorry to say that we lurch from one funding crisis to the next, with our children getting the short end of the stick.

I urge you to give more dollars to education. But be smart about it. Hold the districts accountable.

Thank you for listening.